

# Library: Study in Superlatives

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5 Nov 1984

WASHINGTON — The Library of Congress is a study in superlatives. It's not just an architectural and artistic showplace, a peerless museum, a center for international language studies, a hospital for dying books and a nursing home for aged ones.

It is, simply, the largest collection of information of its kind in the world; 20 million books — of which three-quarters are in 470 foreign languages — line more than 500 miles of shelves.

The books are just a small part of the information network which currently totals 80 million items and grows daily. The Library is jammed with maps, films, letters and personal memorabilia, phonograph records, fiction and music manuscripts, cookbooks — you name it.

The Librarian of Congress, historian Daniel Boorstin, explains the comprehensiveness: "Our kind of nation thrives not only on Gross National Product, but on Gross National Happiness. We are the only nation so far as I know that has included among its declared purposes, 'the pursuit of happiness.' A library which gathered only the materials of instruction and of high culture would not be true to our heritage."

Being true to American heritage is an important part of the Library's philosophy. From Columbus' Book of Privileges to a 6,000-piece set of Lincoln memorabilia and the photos of Kitty Hawk to the original copy of Robert Frost's poem read at President Kennedy's inauguration, the Library has captured, not just covered, American history.

Perhaps more than any single building in Washington, the library of Congress symbolizes democracy alive and kicking in the United States. "An open national library, taking all knowledge for its province and a whole nation as its audience, is a symbol and an instrument of a free people and their government," says Boorstin.

The Library of Congress is first and foremost the research arm of Congress. That is how it began and how it continues today. But it is also the nation's library — anyone, foreign or

native, can use it.

The Library's unique embodiment of American ideas and culture are deeply rooted in history. The great libraries of Europe are descended from the personal collections of kings and nobles — the Georges and Louies that symbolized the idea that learning was somehow reserved for the privileged. But the Library of Congress, if patterned after any one man or ideal, was built upon the personal collection of Thomas Jefferson, who sold his books to Congress after its were destroyed in 1814.

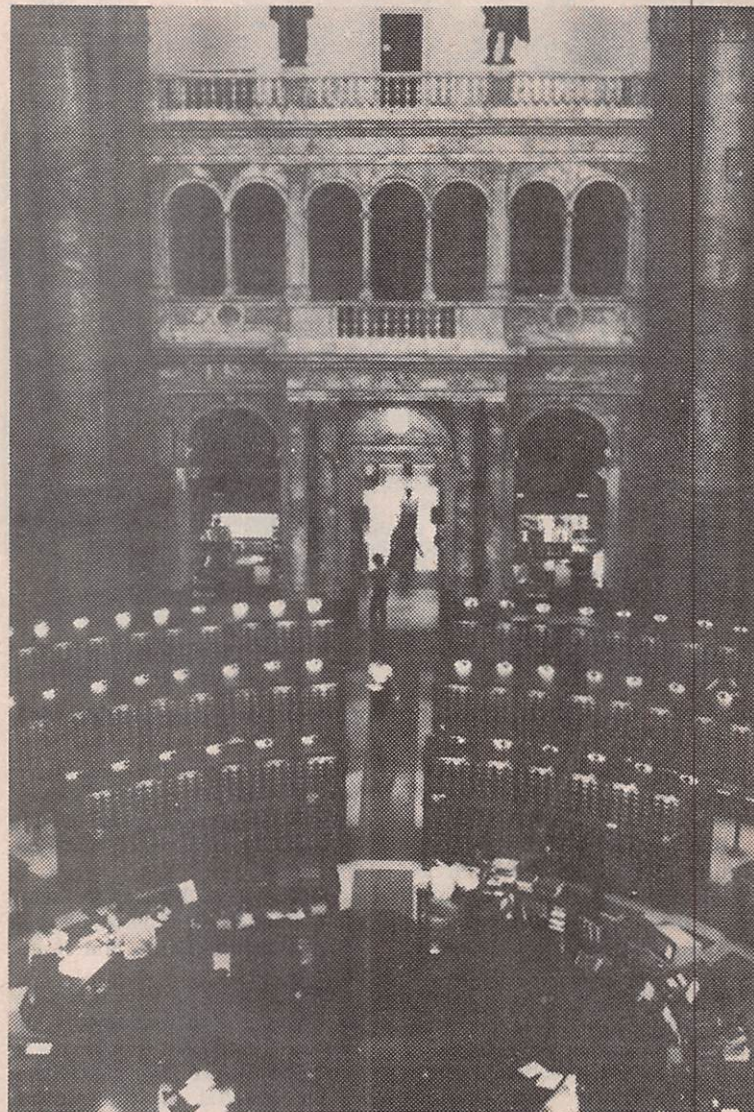
The Library had its official beginnings in 1800, says Charles Goodrum, a former Library administrator who has written several books about the Library. In that year, Congress moved from Philadelphia to what was then called Federal City, a swampy area south of Georgetown, Md. A bill was passed to pay for the transfer of the three branches of government and provide for \$5,000 worth of books.

That first library survived only 13 years, until British troops stormed Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol and the White House.

Thomas Jefferson, who had retired from the presidency and was living in Monticello, offered his private collection to replace the original library. "I do not know that my library contains any branch of science which Congress would wish to exclude from their collection; there is, in fact, no subject to which a Member of Congress may not have occasion to refer," he said.

The 6,487 volume were purchased for \$23,950, and were taken immediately to the capital. Members realized the value of the collection, and began adding to it across the same wide subject range to keep it as comprehensive and general as Jefferson had intended.

Congress also kept Jefferson's method of organization, which was based on a scheme of Sir Francis Bacon that categorized the "faculties needed to comprehend knowledge." Jefferson had modified Bacon's list into 44 specific categories. A century later, the congressional library was using the same system of organization.



Library houses world's largest information collection.

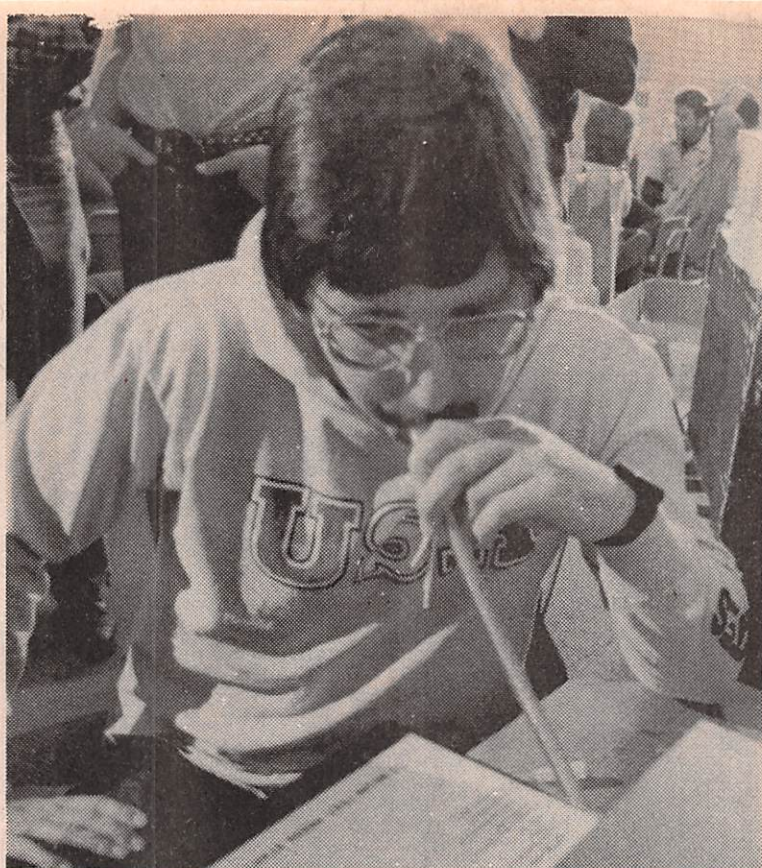
In its early years, the Library was available only to members of Congress and Supreme Court justices. It remained that way until Ainsworth Rand Spofford was appointed Librarian of Congress by President Lincoln in 1864. Spofford was anxious to be an effective research tool for legislators, but he was convinced he needed more books. So he set out to collect "oceans of books and rivers of information."

He began by channeling the copyright office through the Library, because he figured the copyright device was a way to get all kinds of free materials for the Library. The law was changed in 1870, and since then the Library has been swimming in information.

Spofford also got the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to house its collection of scientific and foreign exchange materials in the Library. He negotiated legislation to give the Library 100 free subscriptions to the Congressional Record, which he could exchange with other countries for subscriptions to their government publications.

Spofford then began making up for lost time. He bought complete private collections of historical and medical records, old newspapers, political manuscripts, anything he could get his hands on, but he quickly ran out of space. In 1873, Congress agreed to transfer its library to a separate building, which was not completed until 1897.





Volunteer takes 'breath test' during recent drinking-driving test.

being intoxicated and he has always been able to pass those roadside sobriety tests."

"It's a shame to hear these comments because the point is not to judge one person's abilities against another's but to show that the effects of alcohol do not play favors with anyone," said Barrus.

He said the facts of the Springville test showed that some drivers performed better than others even though they had the same blood-alcohol levels, but that the bottom line is that every driver tested at var-

ious levels of intoxication — tested against themselves — demonstrated weakened driving abilities as they were more intoxicated.

Barrus says tests may show that intoxicated motorists can drive, but he claims that is not the issue.

The issue he says is that they are driving with weakened abilities that might not be obvious to them because of the confidence factor created by the alcohol until "they are driving and someone jumps out from behind a car in front of them."

## Precautions Will Save Transmission This Year

Damaging effects of poor driving practices and bad weather on automatic transmissions can be avoided with a few precautions, according to Dr. Von H. Jarrett, extension agricultural engineer at Utah State University.

He gives the following tips to add miles to a transmission's life:

- Put a vehicle into gear gently. Never race an in neutral or park, then drop it into drive. If a car stalls when placed in gear, have the engine idle adjusted higher.
- When idling for any reason, shift the transmission into neutral or park to prevent overheating.
- When parking, especially on a hill or driveway, first shift to neutral, apply the parking brake, and then shift to park. This avoids strain on the transmission.
- If caught in heavy snow, avoid rocking the car to get out. Shifting quickly from drive to reverse can do serious damage to transmission parts.

It's better to carry sand or salt or a stiff board in your car to put under the sunken wheel. A little shoveling costs less than transmission repairs.

• If rocking the car is the only alternative, go as far as possible in one direction and apply the brakes to stop the wheels. Then shift and do the same in the other direction.

• Avoid simultaneous use of the break and accelerator. Transmission damage can result and the practice is expensive in terms of increased gas consumption, tire wear, and engine stress.

• Jackrabbit starts damage transmissions, wear tires, and waste gas.

• Pushing or pulling another vehicle for extended distances can overheat transmission seals and damage internal parts. If you are pulling heavy loads or trailers have a secondary transmission fluid cooling system installed to avoid transmission damage.

Dr. Jarrett recommends checking the transmission fluid regularly and replacing it annually. Clean or change the transmission filter when the fluid is changed.

Keep the engine properly tuned to avoid vibration that can adversely affect the transmission. Also, change antifreeze ever other year, and maintain the radiator hoses in proper condition.

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## e Clothes

Schwartz credits the idea for the girl-doll fashion line to his sister, whose 5-year-old daughter said of her doll: "I wish I could get Ellie a top like mine."

The outfits are available nationally in department, specialty and mass merchandising stores with retail prices ranging from \$12 to \$16 per set.

**ul Rogers:**

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